

carrier molecule is covalently attached to the indicator molecule by reductively substituting the indicator molecule at a pair of vicinal hydroxides on the carrier molecule.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution] wherein the carrier molecule is a polysaccharide [coupled to the indicator molecule].

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution] wherein the carrier molecule is a glycogen [coupled to the indicator molecule].

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution] wherein the carrier molecule is Type III glycogen [coupled to the indicator molecule].

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution a polymeric carrier molecule coupled to an] wherein the indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of a dye and a fluorophore.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution the polymeric carrier molecule coupled to an] wherein the indicator molecule [that] comprises a primary amine group.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution the polymeric carrier molecule coupled to an] wherein the indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of 5-  
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(aminoacetamido)fluorescein (fluoresceinyl glycine amide), 4'-((aminoacetamido)methyl)fluorescein, 5-aminoeosin, N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-amino-3,6-disulfo-1,8-naphthalimide dipotassium salt, 5-((2-aminoethyl)amino)naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt, 5-((2-aminoethyl)thioureidyl)fluorescein, 4'- (aminomethyl) fluorescein hydrochloride, 5- (aminomethyl) fluorescein hydrochloride, 7-amino-4-methylcoumarin, 1-aminomethylpyrene hydrochloride, 8-aminonaphthalene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid disodium salt (ANTS), 5-(and-6)-((N-(5-aminopentyl)amino)carbonyl)-tetramethylrhodamine (tetramethylrhodamine cadaverine), 5-((5-aminopentyl)thioureidyl)eosin hydrochloride (eosin cadaverine), 5-((5-aminopentyl)thioureidyl)fluorescein (fluorescein cadaverine), 6-aminoquinoline, 5-(((2-(carbohydrazino)methyl)-thio)acetyl)aminofluorescein, Cascade Blue cadaverine trisodium salt, Cascade Blue ethylenediamine trisodium salt, Cascade Blue hydrazide tripotassium salt, and Cascade Blue hydrazide trisodium salt.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 [comprising the step of adding to the solution the polymeric carrier molecule coupled to] wherein the indicator molecule is 5-(and-6)-((N-(5-aminopentyl)amino)carbonyl)-tetramethylrhodamine (tetramethylrhodamine cadaverine).